

– RAND, From Page 1

he makes sure our first action is to take care, both institutionally and personally, of the people affected. His interest extends beyond the active duty force, to the Guard and Reserve, to our civilians and contractors, to our retirees, and — especially — to our families. It comes from his unshakable belief in the premise that we’re an Air Force family and a family Air Force, and from his unbending commitment to the promise that we take care of own. For him, it’s all about leadership.

General Ryan believes leadership is a team sport, that it should not be personalized, and that good ideas are best when they don’t have a single identity ... so his leadership style focuses on group ideas and team accomplishments, rather than on him. He begins meetings with a request that everyone participate, because more input will result in better decisions, and because everyone working together is better and smarter than any one could be. He encourages collaboration and cooperation in all things, and sets the example in his teamwork with our secretary and with our sister services. And he’s a great communicator.

The chief recognizes the importance of telling our story — to our

airmen, to the media, to the public, and to Congress — and he personally tackles the big and tough communication challenges. He also believes leadership is all about communicating, so he restored the chain of command as the primary information source for Air Force people. He has one hard-and-fast rule: when telling our story, our credibility with public and internal audiences depends on openness and honesty — absolute integrity and truth need to be our watchwords. Nothing more, nothing less. He calls it, “blabbing the truth.”

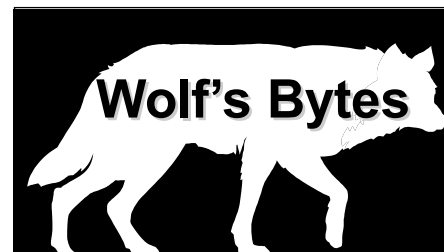
In the last four years, we’ve become a much better Air Force, playing a much larger role on the world stage. We’ve built stability into our expeditionary operations ... arrested readiness ... restored our retirement ... worked retention and recruiting hard to maintain the quality of our force ... increased bonuses ... got pay raises ... fought for our people at every turn ... and so much more. General Ryan would tell you that’s what the Air Force leadership team has been up to these past four years. That he would say that is the unique and selfless legacy of this third-generation airman, aviator, leader and patriot who has spent his whole life in the Air Force and who retires Thursday with more than 36 years of active duty service to this great nation of ours — General Mike Ryan.

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His legacy is a bright and promising future for aerospace power and all airmen on the total Air Force team, including our active duty, Air National Guard, Reserve, retirees, veterans, and families. It has been an incredible honor and a pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to serve with Gen. Mike Ryan. To me, he epitomizes the leader’s ethic: my mission; my men; and only then, myself.

Gen. John Jumper, our new chief of staff of the Air Force, brings an impressive background and broad experience to the job of helping to lead our total Air Force team onward in this new century. Somewhat like General Ryan’s, his family ties to our service extend as far back as the Army Air Corps. His experience transcends both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, with more than 1,400 combat hours in two Southeast Asia tours, and two full assignments in Europe. Having already proven himself a wise counsel and superlative leader at Air Combat Command, I am truly looking forward to serving with General Jumper in the months and years ahead. Our bright future awaits. Together with everyone else on our team, General Jumper and I will work to pilot the journey that will take us there.

On behalf of the total Air Force team, I bid fond farewell with profound appreciation to Gen. Mike Ryan, and congratulate and welcome Gen. John Jumper, our 17th chief of staff of the Air Force.



The “Last Fling of Summer” was a spectacular event put together by the 8th Services Squadron! Master Sgt. Mary Meyer—thanks for a job well done! Your coordination with putting this whole event together from the bands to the booths was incredible.

The Cover Dogs and Cynthia Manley put on great shows! I’d also like to thank Master Sgt. Pat John and Master Sgt. Paul Haggerty for making this event a success.

The beautiful weather also gave us our Wolf Pack members the opportunity to participate in various sports events such as the 5-K run, one-pitch softball tournament, quarterback challenge and 100-meter swim relay, all coordinated by Technical Sgt. Torrence Mills—thank you!

Hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy themselves during the Labor Day weekend. The period of increased outdoor activities from Memorial Day to Labor Day is commonly known as the “101 critical days of summer.” Although there weren’t any major incidents during the Labor Day weekend, don’t let your guard down on using common sense and practicing basic safety procedures every day.

Summer is soon coming to a close but always think safety first in everything you do.

As fall is rounding the corner, we all have to think about our unit compliance inspection checklists. By now, you should have received all the feedback from the self-inspectors. The self-inspectors were there to help your units to prepare for the PACAF inspectors who will be coming here in October. Let’s work rigorously toward doing the right thing.

May God have Mercy on the Wolf Pack’s Prey!

Promising skies ahead

By Gen. Michael Ryan
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

From my perch, as I wrap-up my final tour, I see promising skies ahead for our Air Force...and it’s because of you and your efforts.

Despite tight budgets, you’ve arrested a stubborn four-year readiness decline. You’ve made our transition to an Expeditionary Aerospace Force work, enhancing stability in the lives of Air Force members everywhere. Your direct feedback helped win Congressional support for many of our retention initiatives and the reestablishment of a full-benefit retirement system. Your voices have been heard and

answered with across the board pay raises and targeted bonuses. You have made the personal choices to continue serving our nation, ensuring we’re ready to protect America’s interests around the world. Your choices, your efforts, your dedication, your sacrifices continue to build the premier aerospace power this world has ever known. My family and I have been proud to serve with you.

As General Jumper assumes the office, he brings the deepest commitment to continued improvements in capability and quality of life for all our people. Together, he and Secretary Roche, will provide superb leadership for America’s Air Force in the years ahead. Thank you for your selfless service...it’s the reason no one comes close!



Pride of the Pack

Job: 8th Logistics Support Squadron engine manager
Hometown: Brierfield, Ala.
Follow-on: Aviano Air Base, Italy
Hobbies: Reading, fitness, spending time with son and husband

Nominees are selected for outstanding service and dedication to their unit. To nominate an individual, contact the member’s group commander.

**Senior Airman
Meriam Mays**

Hometown News holiday greetings

An Army/Air Force Hometown News crew will be here to put you on television during the holidays in your hometown. Your family and friends will see you give a personalized message that will be aired during a commercial break. All you have to do to participate is be at O’Malley Inn Oct. 2 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will only take one minute of your time. Call 782-4705 for details, or visit <http://hn.afnews.af.mill/webpages/holidaygreetings.htm>